REMARKS

I. <u>Introduction</u>

In the Office Action dated July 13, 2005:

(1) claims 30-36, 41-47, and 52-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schein et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,002,394 (hereinafter "Schein") in view of Markandey et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,526,144 (hereinafter "Markandey"),

(2) claims 37, 48, and 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schein in view of Markandey, and further in view of Noble et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,622,148 (hereinafter "Noble"), and

(3) claims 38-40, 49-51, and 60-62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schein in view of Markandey, and further in view of Etheredge U.S. Patent No. 6,172,674.

In this Reply, applicants have amended claims 30, 36-41, 47-52, and 58-62 to correct a grammatical error. Specifically, the term "criteria," which is plural,* was incorrectly used where the term "criterion," which is singular, should have been used. For example, this can be seen in the

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* Applicants would like to point out that while criteria is widely used in the singular form, it not currently considered grammatically correct in that use.

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claims as originally filed, which recited "a particular search criteria" (claims 30 and 41) and "the search criteria is ..." (claims 30, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41 47, 48, 51, 58, and 59). Accordingly, the use of the term "criterion" is grammatically correct. Therefore, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. (See MPEP § 2163.07(II))

After entry of the amendments, claims 30-62 remain pending in the present application. The claim rejections are respectfully traversed, as discussed below.

II. <u>Examiner Interview of October 6, 2005</u>

The Examiner and the undersigned conducted a telephonic interview on October 6, 2005. The undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview.

Generally, the undersigned asked the Examiner to clarify the obviousness rejection of claims 30, 41, and 52 based on Schein in view of Markandey, and to clarify the Examiner's contention that "it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to send the hash data in a header transmitted with the video data being transmitted" (Office Action, page 3, lines 11-13). The Examiner explained that the proposed combination of Schein and Markandey would result in the use of Markandey's transmission scheme to transmit Schein's

program guide data to the user equipment. In addition, the Examiner explained that in the proposed combination, a hashing function would be performed on the data prior to its transmission.

Based on this clarification, detailed arguments in support of applicants' position are presented below.

III. The Rejections of Claims 30-36, 41-47, and 52-58

Claims 30-36, 41-47, and 52-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schein in view of Markandey. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as defined by independent claims 30, 41, and 52 relates to storing and searching television program data having a header portion and a data portion. Based on a user request for television programs having a particular search criterion, the header portion is searched for the search criterion. If a match of the search criterion is made in the header portion, the data portion is searched for the search criterion. However, if no match of the search criterion is made in the header portion, no search of the data portion is performed.

Schein discusses providing television schedule information to a viewer. The television schedule information may be stored in a database at the user equipment. The

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television schedule information may include show identification numbers (SIDs) and description identification numbers (DIDs) (see Schein, col. 10, lines 2-6). Schein mentions that when the database is being built at the user equipment, the SIDs and DIDs may be processed by a hashing system for more efficient searching (See col. 12, line 5-10).

The Examiner contends that "by definition of searching a hash function, a limited search is performed of the hash data, and then if results are found another search of the actual data is performed" (Office Action, page 2). Applicants disagree that the definition of searching a hashing function includes performing two searches. Nevertheless, even if this were the case, applicants' claimed invention would still be allowable over the combination of Schein and Markandey.

Applicants' claimed invention requires the searching of both a header portion and a data portion of television program data for a particular search criterion if a match is made in the header portion. In other words, the same search criterion would be used to search both portions of the television program data.

Schein, however, does not show this specific type of search. A hashing function, as understood by applicants, typically converts an identifier or key into a value for the location of data in a database. Therefore, even if a hashing

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function were considered a search, the hashing function would "search" for data in memory based on the location of the data. The "search criterion" associated with this "search" would be the location of the data in a database. Applicants submit that Schein does not show a second search of the data itself for the same search criterion (i.e., the location of the data in the database).

Accordingly, even if Schein were combined with Markandey such that the hash data were transmitted in a header and the hashing function were performed on data prior to its transmission, the combination would still not show (a) searching a header portion for the search criterion and (b) searching the data portion for the search criterion if a match is made in the header portion, as required by applicants' claims.

For at least the foregoing reason, applicants traverse the rejection of independent claims 30, 41, and 52, and submit that that independent claims 30, 41, and 52, and are allowable. Dependent claims 31-36, 42-47, and 53-28 depend upon one of independent claims 30, 41, and 52 and are, therefore, also allowable.
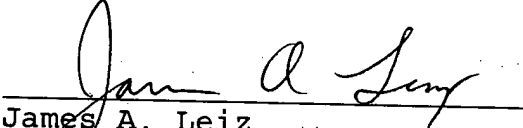
IV. The Rejections of Claims 37-40, 48-51, and 59-62

Dependent claims 37-40, 48-51, and 59-62 depend upon one of independent claims 30, 41, and 52 and are, therefore, also allowable.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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